

CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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Claim Count Number	Claims of Application No. 09/605,001	Claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,083,225
	<p>arms extending in a general longitudinal direction;</p> <p>c) positioning the retractor arms within the intervertebral disc space whereby first and second supporting surfaces of each arm contact opposed vertebral bodies;</p> <p>d) introducing a drill instrument into the sleeve and advancing the drill instrument within the sleeve to the disc space;</p> <p>e) forming with the drill instrument a bore that penetrates at least partially into each opposed vertebral body;</p> <p>f) removing the drill instrument from the sleeve; and</p> <p>g) introducing a fusion implant into the bore.</p>	<p>arms extending in a general longitudinal direction;</p> <p>c) positioning the retractor arms within the intervertebral disc space whereby first and second supporting surfaces of each arm contact opposed vertebral bodies;</p> <p>d) introducing a drill instrument into the sleeve and advancing the drill instrument within the sleeve to the disc space;</p> <p>e) forming with the drill instrument a bore that penetrates at least partially into each opposed vertebral body;</p> <p>f) removing the drill instrument from the sleeve; and</p> <p>g) introducing a fusion implant into the bore.</p>
5	<p>109. The method according to claim 108 further including the steps of:</p> <p>h) introducing a tap instrument into the sleeve and advancing the tap instrument within the sleeve to the disc space;</p> <p>i) tapping with the tap instrument a thread within the bore;</p> <p>j) removing the tap from the retractor sleeve;</p> <p>k) introducing into the sleeve a fusion</p>	<p>6. The method according to claim 5 further including the steps of:</p> <p>h) introducing a tap instrument into the sleeve and advancing the tap instrument within the sleeve to the disc space;</p> <p>i) tapping with the tap instrument a thread within the bore;</p> <p>j) removing the tap from the retractor sleeve;</p> <p>k) introducing into the sleeve a</p>

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	cage having a cage body with an external thread; and l) screwing the cage body into the threaded bore.	fusion cage having a cage body with an external thread; and l) screwing the cage body into the threaded bore.
6	110. The method according to claim 109 wherein the step of introducing a fusion implant includes introducing a fusion implant having a plurality of openings extending through the cage body.	7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the step of introducing a fusion implant includes introducing a fusion implant having a plurality of openings extending through the cage body.
7	111. The method according to claim 110 further including the step of filling the cage body with bone-growth inducing substances.	8. The method according to claim 7 further including the step of filling the cage body with bone-growth inducing substances.
8	112. The method according to claim 111 further including the step of mounting an end cap to the open end of the cage body to enclose the bone-growth inducing substances within the cage body.	9. The method according to claim 8 further including the step of mounting an end cap to the open end of the cage body to enclose the bone-growth inducing substances within the cage body.
9	113. The method according to claim 108 wherein the retractor arms define a dimension between the first and second supporting surfaces sufficient to distract the opposed vertebral bodies and wherein the step of positioning the retractor arms includes distracting the opposed vertebral bodies.	10. The method according to claim 5 wherein the retractor arms define a dimension between the first and second supporting surfaces sufficient to distract the opposed vertebral bodies and wherein the step of positioning the retractor arms includes distracting the opposed vertebral bodies.

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10	114. A surgical retractor instrument comprising an elongated sleeve member including proximal and distal end portions and defining a longitudinal axis, the elongated sleeve member defining a longitudinal passageway for reception of surgical instrumentation, the distal end portion having first and second retractor arms extending in a general longitudinal direction, each retractor arm having first and second opposed supporting surfaces for engaging respective opposed adjacent tissue portions, each retractor arm defining a dimension between the first and second supporting surfaces sufficient to distract the opposed tissue portions upon insertion thereof; and a cap engageable with the proximal end portion of the sleeve member, the cap for receiving the impact of a driving instrument used to engage the retractor instrument with the tissue portions.	11. A surgical retractor instrument comprising an elongated sleeve member including proximal and distal end portions and defining a longitudinal axis, the elongated sleeve member defining a longitudinal passageway for reception of surgical instrumentation, the distal end portion having first and second retractor arms extending in a general longitudinal direction, each retractor arm having first and second opposed supporting surfaces for engaging respective opposed adjacent tissue portions, each retractor arm defining a dimension between the first and second supporting surfaces sufficient to distract the opposed tissue portions upon insertion thereof; and a cap engageable with the proximal end portion of the sleeve member, the cap for receiving the impact of a driving instrument used to engage the retractor instrument with the tissue portions.
11	115. The surgical retractor according to claim 114 wherein the first and second supporting surfaces of each	12. The surgical retractor according to claim 11 wherein the first and second supporting surfaces of each

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	retractor arm are substantially planar.	retractor arm are substantially planar.
12	116. The surgical retractor according to claim 114 wherein each retractor arm has a tapered end portion for facilitating insertion into the tissue portions.	13. The surgical retractor according to claim 11 wherein each retractor arm has a tapered end portion for facilitating insertion into the tissue portions.
13	117. A surgical retractor for use in distracting adjacent vertebrae having an intervertebral space defined therebetween, the retractor comprising: an elongate sleeve body having a proximal end and a distal end and the sleeve body having an opening in a side wall portion thereof defining a longitudinal passageway therebetween; and first and second retractor arms extending longitudinally from the distal end of the elongate sleeve body, each retractor arm defining a first vertebra supporting surface to contact a first vertebra and a second vertebra supporting surface to contact a second vertebra, the first and second vertebra supporting surfaces of each retractor arm being spaced a predetermined distraction	14. A surgical retractor for use in distracting adjacent vertebrae having an intervertebral space defined therebetween, the retractor comprising: an elongate sleeve body having a proximal end and a distal end and the sleeve body having an opening in a side wall portion thereof defining a longitudinal passageway therebetween; and first and second retractor arms extending longitudinally from the distal end of the elongate sleeve body, each retractor arm defining a first vertebra supporting surface to contact a first vertebra and a second vertebra supporting surface to contact a second vertebra, the first and second vertebra supporting surfaces of each retractor arm being spaced a predetermined distraction

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	distance at least equal to the height of the intervertebral space defined between the adjacent vertebrae.	distance at least equal to the height of the intervertebral space defined between the adjacent vertebrae.
14	118. The surgical retractor according to claim 117 wherein the retractor arms each possess distal tapered portions for facilitating insertion into the intervertebral space.	15. The surgical retractor according to claim 14 wherein the retractor arms each possess distal tapered portions for facilitating insertion into the intervertebral space.
15	119. The surgical retractor according to claim 117 wherein the first and second supporting surfaces of each retractor arm are in general parallel relation.	16. The surgical retractor according to claim 14 wherein the first and second supporting surfaces of each retractor arm are in general parallel relation.
16	120. A surgical retractor for use in distracting adjacent vertebrae, comprising: an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end and defining a longitudinal passageway therebetween, the elongate body defining a longitudinal axis; first and second retractor arms extending longitudinally from the distal end of the elongate body, each retractor arm defining a first vertebra supporting surface and a second vertebra supporting surface, the first and second vertebra supporting surfaces of each retractor arm being	17. A surgical retractor for use in distracting adjacent vertebrae, comprising: an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end and defining a longitudinal passageway therebetween, the elongate body defining a longitudinal axis; first and second retractor arms extending longitudinally from the distal end of the elongate body, each retractor arm defining a first vertebra supporting surface and a second vertebra supporting surface, the first and second vertebra supporting surfaces of each retractor arm being

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	spaced a predetermined distance sufficient to contact the adjacent vertebrae to be in supporting engagement therewith, the first and second vertebra support surfaces being in general parallel relation with each other and to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body, and an impactor member mounted adjacent the proximal end of the elongate body and being dimensioned to receive the impact of the driving member utilized to position the first and second retractor arms with respect to the adjacent vertebrae.	spaced a predetermined distance sufficient to contact the adjacent vertebrae to be in supporting engagement therewith, the first and second vertebra support surfaces being in general parallel relation with each other and to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body, and an impactor member mounted adjacent the proximal end of the elongate body and being dimensioned to receive the impact of the driving member utilized to position the first and second retractor arms with respect to the adjacent vertebrae.
17	121. A surgical retractor for use in distracting adjacent vertebrae, the retractor comprising: an elongate sleeve body having a proximal end and a distal end and defining a longitudinal passageway therebetween, the elongate sleeve body including at least one longitudinal opening in an intermediate wall portion; and first and second retractor arms extending longitudinally from the distal end of the elongate sleeve body, each retractor arm defining a	18. A surgical retractor for use in distracting adjacent vertebrae, the retractor comprising: an elongate sleeve body having a proximal end and a distal end and defining a longitudinal passageway therebetween, the elongate sleeve body including at least one longitudinal opening in an intermediate wall portion; and first and second retractor arms extending longitudinally from the distal end of the elongate sleeve body, each retractor arm defining a

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	first vertebra supporting surface to contact a first vertebra and a second vertebra supporting surface to contact a second vertebra, the first and second vertebra supporting surfaces of each retractor arm being spaced thereon at a predetermined distraction distance.	first vertebra supporting surface to contact a first vertebra and a second vertebra supporting surface to contact a second vertebra, the first and second vertebra supporting surfaces of each retractor arm being spaced thereon at a predetermined distraction distance.
18	122. A method for performing a surgical procedure comprising: providing a surgical retractor including an elongate sleeve member having proximal and distal end portions and defining an opening therethrough to receive instrumentation, the distal end portion configured for insertion at least partially into an intervertebral space between adjacent opposed vertebrae; distracting the adjacent vertebrae by at least partially inserting the distal end portion of the sleeve member within the intervertebral space; inserting instrumentation through the opening in the surgical retractor; and performing the surgical procedure.	19. A method for performing a surgical procedure comprising: providing a surgical retractor including an elongate sleeve member having proximal and distal end portions and defining an opening therethrough to receive instrumentation, the distal end portion configured for insertion at least partially into an intervertebral space between adjacent opposed vertebrae; distracting the adjacent vertebrae by at least partially inserting the distal end portion of the sleeve member within the intervertebral space; inserting instrumentation through the opening in the surgical retractor; and performing the surgical spinal procedure.

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19	123. The method according to claim 122 wherein the step of performing the surgical spinal procedure includes utilizing the instrumentation inserted through the opening in the surgical retractor to perform the surgical spinal procedure.	20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the step of performing the surgical spinal procedure includes utilizing the instrumentation inserted through the opening in the surgical retractor to perform the surgical spinal procedure.
20	124. The method according to claim 123 wherein the elongate sleeve member of the surgical retractor defines an axial opening and wherein the step of inserting includes positioning instrumentation through the axial opening to perform the surgical spinal procedure.	21. The method according to claim 20 wherein the elongate sleeve member of the surgical retractor defines an axial opening and wherein the step of inserting includes positioning instrumentation through the axial opening to perform the surgical spinal procedure.
21	125. A method for performing a surgical procedure comprising: providing a surgical retractor including an elongate hollow member having proximal and distal end portions, the distal end portion having first and second stationary retractor arms configured for insertion at least partially into an intervertebral space defined between upper and lower opposed vertebrae; distracting the adjacent vertebrae to a predetermined distracted position by at least partially inserting the	22. A method for performing a surgical procedure comprising: providing a surgical retractor including an elongate hollow member having proximal and distal end portions, the distal end portion having first and second stationary retractor arms configured for insertion at least partially into an intervertebral space defined between upper and lower opposed vertebrae; distracting the adjacent vertebrae to a predetermined distracted position by at least partially inserting the



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	retractor arms within the intervertebral space; and performing the surgical procedure.	retractor arms within the intervertebral space; and performing the surgical <del>spinal</del> procedure.
22	126. The method according to claim 125 wherein each retractor arm includes first and second opposed supporting surfaces and wherein the step of distracting includes at least partially inserting the retractor arms whereby the first and second supporting surfaces of each retractor arm respectively engage the upper and lower vertebrae.	23. The method according to claim 22 wherein each retractor arm includes first and second opposed supporting surfaces and wherein the step of distracting includes at least partially inserting the retractor arms whereby the first and second supporting surfaces of each retractor arm respectively engage the upper and lower vertebrae.
23	127. A surgical retractor instrument comprising an elongated sleeve member including proximal and distal end portions and defining a longitudinal axis, the elongated sleeve member defining a longitudinal passageway for reception of surgical instrumentation, the distal end portion having first and second stationary retractor arms extending in a general longitudinal direction, each retractor arm having opposed distracting surfaces, the distracting surfaces of each retractor arm laterally spaced with respect to	24. A surgical retractor instrument comprising an elongated sleeve member including proximal and distal end portions and defining a longitudinal axis, the elongated sleeve member defining a longitudinal passageway for reception of surgical instrumentation, the distal end portion having first and second stationary retractor arms extending in a general longitudinal direction, each retractor arm having opposed distracting surfaces, the distracting surfaces of each retractor arm laterally spaced with respect to

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	the longitudinal axis at a predetermined distraction distance sufficient to distract the opposed tissue portions upon insertion thereof the sleeve member including an opening in an outer wall thereof and proximate the distal end portion of the sleeve member.	the longitudinal axis at a predetermined distraction distance sufficient to distract the opposed tissue portions upon insertion thereof the sleeve member including an opening in an outer wall thereof and proximate the distal end portion of the sleeve member.
24	128. The surgical retractor according to claim 127 wherein the distraction distance of each retractor arm is greater than the height of the intervertebral space.	25. The surgical retractor according to claim 14 wherein the distraction distance of each retractor arm is greater than the height of the intervertebral space.
25	129. The surgical retractor according to claim 127 wherein the distal end portion is dimensioned for insertion within the Intervertebral space defined between adjacent vertebrae and wherein the distraction distance defined between the opposed distracting surfaces of each retractor is at least equal to the height of the intervertebral space.	26. The surgical retractor according to claim 24 wherein the distal end portion is dimensioned for insertion within the intervertebral space defined between adjacent vertebrae and wherein the distraction distance defined between the opposed distracting surfaces of each retractor is at least equal to the height of the intervertebral space.